Dear subscribers,

2025 has finally come to a close. There is much that could be said about the past year and what has transpired, but—since this newsletter is primarily focused on Canadian politics—I'd like to provide a brief overview of how I currently see our political landscape. This post will be fairly brief, and I plan on releasing a much longer, more substantial piece in the next week or two, so stay tuned for that.

The most obvious and consequential change that has occurred in the past year would be, without a doubt, the re-election of the ruling Liberal government—albeit under the new leadership of Mark Carney. This is something that was very unexpected at the start of the year, as Pierre Poilievre and the CPC were cruising with a 20-point lead in the polls—a lead that many, including myself, thought would be more durable than it actually was.

Of course, the evaporation of this lead was in large part due to the "Elbows Up" panic that the Liberal Party successfully capitalized on, something that was also relatively unexpected.

Much of the support that the Liberals rapidly regained during the height of this panic—February, March, and April—came from the NDP, who had something of a near-death experience in this year's election; they have since been cast into the political hinterlands, perhaps permanently.

Indeed, a more narrow and concentrated two-party system in Canada has seemed to emerge—such predictions, however, must not be overstated, as federal elections can sometimes be aberrations (like 2011).

All of this, however, has served as somewhat of a blackpill—a reminder that there exist many people in this country who are incredibly obtuse, and will continue voting for managed decline as long as it gives them a false sense of moral superiority. These people constitute a powerful voting block that will not be easily dislodged, and any attempts at engaging in Canadian electoral politics must take this into account.

Such events also sent a strong signal—one that traditional center-right strategies which rely solely on mass democracy as the means to effect political change are no longer viable in the current political climate.

Even more broadly, I have personally come to the conclusion that entire paradigm that has underpinned Canadian politics for six decades, and was molded by the likes of Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, should be—like a dilapidated building—condemned and summarily demolished. We are now living in a moment that moves in paradigms, not increments, and we need to act accordingly. A change of this magnitude will no doubt take considerable time to set in motion, and there will indubitably be a fair share of false starts and frustrations that accompany this process. Viable alternatives to the axioms that currently exist will need to be created lest we risk descending into anarchy—something that could be even worse than our current managed decline.

Even just thinking about the possibility of this happening, however, makes me dramatically more optimistic and energized than I otherwise would be.

And there are signs that others on the Canadian right are recognizing this as well.

The Dominion Society, created only a few short months ago, are the vanguard of this shift in approach. I personally have some quibbles with the finer details of their worldview, but they—more than anyone else—grasp the fundamentals of what is needed.

On the more establishment-friendly end of the spectrum, you have the Without Diminishment substack. They are more polished and refined than the Dominion Society, and are at least somewhat positioned within existing paradigms—yet they too seem to understand What Time It Is. Importantly, Without Diminishment has received a boost from some inside the CPC establishment, such as MP Michelle Rempel Garner and Pierre Poilievre's ex-communications director, Ben Woodfinden.

These developments, despite their relative smallness, can be considered whitepills. Yes, much more infrastructure is needed to deliver the ultimate jump from one paradigm to another. Other considerations regarding this matter will be included in the future post I mentioned earlier. But considering where we were following defeat on April 28th, to

end the year with this sort of progression occurring is reason to celebrate, even if the larger situation at hand remains lamentable.

So there you have it. Although 2026 probably won't bring a definitive paradigm shift, what has been set in motion during the latter parts of 2025 will surely continue to grow. Happy New Year!